Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02097 070933Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /112 W
----------119181 071049Z /14/45
R 261130Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 046
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2097

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARA SIX)

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, MR
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH GIRM AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM

1. SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JULY 24, MAURI-
TANIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM SAID FORMER PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH
HAD BEEN OUSTED BECAUSE HE HAD ALLOWED LEFTISTS TOO MUCH
INFLUENCE AND HAD NOT PURSUED CONSISTENT POLICY. POWER IN
NEW REGIME, HE SAID, WAS SECURELY INHANDS OF MILITARY COMMITTEE
WITH BOTH CABINET AND COMMITTEE OF 22 PLAYING SECONDARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 02097 070933Z

ROLES. IF HELP IN NEGOTUIATING SETTLEMENT IN SAHARA IS NOT
FORTHCOMING FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES, NEW GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED
TO GO TO LIBYANS AND EVEN ALGERIANS WITH WHOM NEW GOVERN-
MENT HAS ALREADY MADE CONTACT. IT APPEARS THAT BOTH MOROCCO
AND ALGERIA COULD LIVE WITH INDEPENDENT STATE IN MOST OF MAURI-
TANIAN OF WESTERN SAHARA. ALTHOUGH HE TURNED DOWN OFFER
TO BECOME GIRM AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, HE WILL VISIT WASHING-

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

TON IN SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. GIRM AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM (AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON) AHMEDOU OULD ABDULLAH CALLED ON ME JULY 24 FOR TOUR D'HORIZON ON MAURITANIAN POLITICAL SCENE AND SAHARA PROBLEM. ABDULLAH SAID THAT OULD DADDAH WAS REMOVED BECAUSE HIS GRASP ON THE REIGNS OF POWER HAD SLIPPED TO THE POINT WHERE, FOR THE PAST YEAR, IMPORTANT DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE ALONG WITH THE GOVERNOR OF AKJOUJT AND THE MINISTER OF FISHING & INDUSTRY. CONSERVATIVE MAURITANIANS, HE SAID, FEARED THE RADICAL DIRECTION BEING TAKEN BY THIS TRIO. ANOTHER PROBLEM WITH OULD DADDAH, HE SAID, HAD BEEN HIS LACK OF CLEAR POLITICAL DIRECTION. THUS, HE SHIFTED ALLEGIANCE FROM ALGERIA TO MOROCCOWH BY CONTRAST, THE NEW GIRM BELIEVES THAT QUOTE GROWNUPS SHOULD MAINTAIN STABLE RELATIONSHIPS UNQUOTE.

3. REAL POWER IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT RESIDES IN THE 18-MAN MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL RECOVERY (CMRN), ACCORDING TO OULD ABDULLAH. CABINET TAKES ITS ORDERS FROM CMRN. THE CIVILIAN COMMITTEE OF 22 IS PURELY ADVISORY BODY.

4. OULD ABDULLAH ASSERTED THAT PRESIDENT SALECK HAD SENT HIM TO ENLIST USG HELP IN PLACATING FRENCH, WHO THE MAURITANIANS BELIEVE ARE PIQUED BY NEW REGIME'S NOT VERY PRIVATE APPEALS FOR SUPPORT TO U.S. AND OTHER POWERS. HE SUGGESTED IT WOULD NOT HLEP ANYONE IF THE FRENCH IN THEIR PIQUE WERE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

BEGIN PROPAGATING RUMOR THAT U.S. WAS BEHIND THE COUP. OULD ABDULLAH CLAIMED TO REALIZE (MORE THAT MOST GIRM PEOPLE, HE SAID) THAT USG WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY CONSPICUOUS ROLE IN ANY FUTURE SAHARA PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT UNLESS GIRM CAN DEAL THROUGH ITS TRADITIONAL FRIENDS AND SEE SOME RESULTS IN NEXT TWO MONTHS, IT WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WORK THROUGH LIBYANS OR TO GO DIRECTLY TO ALGERIANS. THIS WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR MAURITANIA SINCE RADICAL AND UNPREDICTABLE LIBYANS WOULD LIKELY NOT SHARE MAURITANIA'S VIEWS ABOUT WHAT IS BEST FOR MAURITANIA, AND MAURITANIA WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR TOUGH-MINDED BOUMEDIENE REGIME ONE-ON-ONE.

5. AMONG CURRENTLY POPULAR SCENARIOS FOR ENDING WAR, HE SAID, PROPOSAL MOST LIKELY TO WORK WAS AN INDEPENDENT OR SEMI-INDEPENDENT SAHARA STATW WITH A COASTLINE BUT WITHOUT A BORDER WITH ALGERIA, I.E. A STATE COMPRISING MORE OR LESS WHAT IS NOW MAURITANIAN-OCCUPIED PORTION OF THE WESTERN SAHAV WITH EXCEPTION OF PENINSULA CONTAINING NOUADHIBOU AND SMALL STRIP NORTH OF RAILROAD. OULD ABDULLAH FELT ALMOST CERTAIN THE ALGERIANS WOULD AGREE TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AND WAS REASONABLE CERTAIN THAT MOROCCO COULD BE PRESSURED INTO ALLOWING

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

MAURITANIA TO PULL OUT OF WAR, AS LONG AS MOROCCO RETAINED
ITS PORTION OF WESTERN SAHARA AND DID NOT HAVE ALGERIA ON ITS
SOUTHERN FLANK.

6. OULD ABDULLAH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FONMIN LAGHDAF HAD TALKED
WITH BOUMEDIENE AT KHARTOUM (WHICH I ALSO HEARD JULY 24 FROM
ISMAEL OULD AMAR), BUT SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT TO CON-
TACT POLISARIO. SUCH CONTACT WOULD MEAN LITTLE BY ITSELF, HE
SAID, BECAUSE POLISARIO IS CAPTIVE OF ALGERIANS WHILE MAURI-
TANIANS ARE CAPTIVES OF MOROCCO. HE PLANS TO ASK PRESIDENT
TO REQUEST MOROCCO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM AKJOUJT SINCE, WITH
CLOSING OF COPPER MINES, THERE IS NOTHING THERE TO PROTECT.
OULD ABDULLAH WOULD RATHER SEE HALF OF 8,000 MOROCCAN TROOPS
IN THE COUNTRY STATIONED ALONG RAILWAY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

7. OULD ABDULLAH SAID HE THOUGHT SAUDIS WERE PREPARED TO RELEASE
SOME OF THE CREDITS THAT HAD BEEN APPROVED JUST PRIOR TO OULD
DADDA'S DEMISE (WHICH OULD AMAR, AGAIN , HAD ALSO REPORTED). OULD
ABDULLAH ALSOIYPORTED THAT DURING A CONVERSATION THE PRECEEDING
WEEK, FRENCH PRESIDENCY JOURNIAC HAD SEEMED WILLING TO SUPPORT
WITH ECONOMIC AID ANY LEGITIMATE EFFORT TO END WAR.

8. ALTHOUGH NEW GOVERNMENT ASKED HIM TO BECOME AMBASSADOR TO
U.S., A POST HE HELD FROM 1973 TO 1976, OULD ABDULLAH
SAID HE CONVINCED THEM THIS WOULD NOT BE WISE. HE HAS PRO-I.S.
REPUTATION, HE SAID, AND SO WOULD HAVE LESS INFLUENCE WITH SOME
GIRM ELEMENTS. HE WILL NEVERTHELESS VISIT U.S.
AFTER LABOR DAY AND HOPES FOR HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS AT THAT TIME.

9. OULD ABDULLAH'S SCENARIO FOR A SAHRAOUI STATE IN WHAT
IS NOW MAURITANIAN SAHARA IS ONE THAT HAS OCCURRED TO A NUMBER
OF OTHER PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN RECENTLY. KRYZA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NOUAKC02097
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780332-0105, D780308-0224
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780719/aaaaapms.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e7fd576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1880698
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH GIRM AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, MR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7fd576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014